

## **First Lehi Bank**

### **By Carl Mellor**

In 1891, Lehi's first Bank...Lehi Commercial and Savings Bank opened. The bank opened first in the People's Coop, then at this site on the east corner of Second East and State Street. It would later become the Lehi Hospital. They moved to this site with the completion of this new two story building. Initial interest on savings was 5%.

Before 1891, when the Lehi Sugar Company opened in Lehi, there was no need for a bank. Most merchandising was done by trading farm goods for store goods. With a cash crop of sugar beets, the farmers now needed a place to exchange and save their money.

A bank robbery occurred here during the early days of the automobile. The safety deposit boxes were located in the main lobby. One robber took blasting caps into the bank to blow open the boxes. The other robber kept the model T running outside. He adjusted the spark on the car to cause loud engine backfire ( to correspond with the blasting caps going off inside the lobby).

A Lehi policeman stopped to help the troubled motorist, but was told that the engine was now running fine. The policeman went on down the road, the robber inside exited with the loot and both robbers drove away without ever being apprehended.

The Fourth Ward Sunday School met here for several years awaiting the completion of the Old Fourth Ward Building. The large open room on the second floor was the scene of elite social functions and dances.

This building for many years was the Lehi Hospital. The elevator inside was operated by water pressure which resulted in a slow ride up but a much faster ride down.